

Sangeet Natak Akademi
New Delhi

PRESS RELEASE


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**MS. LEELA SAMSON APPOINTED CHAIRPERSON OF
SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI**

The Government of India has appointed eminent Bharatanatyam exponent Ms. Leela Samson as Chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi on 10th August 2010 for a tenure of five years. Sangeet Natak Akademi is the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama and an Autonomous Body of the Government of India. It was inaugurated in January 1953 by the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Since then it has served as the apex institution of the performing arts in the country.

Ms. Leela Samson will be the 12th Chairperson of the Akademi. The Chair has been adorned in the past by such eminent personalities as Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri K.P.S.Menon, Smt. Kamladevi Chattopadhyaya, Shri V.K.Narayana Menon, Shri Girish Karnad, Shri Bhupen Hazarika and Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, among others.

Born in 1951 in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu, Ms. Leela Samson was trained in Bharatanatyam at the Kalakshetra College of Fine Arts, Chennai. She is widely recognized as one of the outstanding dancers of Bharatanatyam, who has also served the art as a leading Guru and choreographer. Closely associated with her Guru Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, she is presently the Director of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai. She has been honoured with the Padma Shri in 1990 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2000.


Jayant Kastuar
Secretary
Sangeet Natak Akademi